

TWO NEW GENERIC RECORDS OF MOSSES FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

by

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ABSTRACT

The moss genera *Bryobartramia* and *Eccremidium* are newly recorded from South Africa, the first from the Clanwilliam division of the Cape Province and the second from the Bergville district of Natal.

UITTREKSEL

TWEE NUWE GENERIESE REKORDS VIR MOSSE IN SUID-AFRIKA. Die mos genera *Bryobartramia* en *Eccremidium* is nog nie vantevore in Suid-Afrika gevind nie. Nou is eersgenoemde in die Clanwilliam distrik in die Kaapprovinsie en die laasgenoemde in die Bergville distrik, Natal, gevind.

As a result of the collection of small terrestrial mosses by both authors, two new generic records of mosses for South Africa have come to light. They have almost certainly escaped detection in the past because of their small size and ephemeral nature. It is interesting to note that these two genera were previously regarded as Australian endemics. Also, two recent new bryophyte records for Africa (Schelpe, 1969) were previously only known from Australasia. Yet another taxon collected near Clanwilliam appears to represent an undescribed cleistocarpous genus of the Dicranaceae.

BRYOBARTRAMIA SAINSB.

This monotypic genus is typified by *Bryobartramia robbinsii* Sainsb.* previously only recorded from "grassland or grass forest land", in Victoria, Australia. In South Africa, the species was collected by one of the authors (E.A.C.L.E.S.) on a roadside, south aspect, shale/clay slope seven miles south

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* A new combination for this species *Bryobartramia novae-valesiae* (Broth.) Stone and Scott *comb. nov.* (basionym: *Trachycarpidium novae-valesiae* Broth. ex Roth.) is in the course of publication elsewhere.

of Clanwilliam on the road to Algeria, Cape Province (5.x.1972). The associated vegetation is scrub comprising *Euclea*, *Rhus*, *Galenia*, *Elytropappus* and *Euphorbia mauritanica*.

Bryobartramia has the habit of a comparatively large *Ephemerum*, but is peculiar in that the enlarged archegonium does not split off to form a calyptra but continues growth and envelops both the seta and mature capsule. On these grounds, Sainsbury (1948) referred it to a separate family, the Bryobartramiaceae.

ECCREMIDIUM WILS.

This genus of the Dicranaceae is similar in aspect to *Pleuridium*, but has a well differentiated operculum to the capsule. Immature specimens collected by one of the authors (I.G.S.) are similar to *E. exiguum* (Hook. f. & Wils.) Wils., one of the four Australian endemic species of the genus. These specimens were found near the base of a path-side earth-bank, near the entrance to the Tugela Gorge, in the Royal Natal National Park, Bergville district, Natal (23.iii.1972). Mature specimens should be sought in April.

Specimens of these new generic records are lodged in the Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town (BOL).

REFERENCES

- SAINSBURY, G. O. K., 1948. Bryobartramiaceae, a new moss family. *Bryologist* **51**: 9-13.
SCHELPE, E. A. C. L. E., 1969. New records of Southern Hemisphere Bryophyta for South Africa. *Jl S. Afr. Bot.* **35**: 109-112.